Promotion of IT in Madhya Pradesh

2339. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh have decided to harness the power of Information Tecnnology for masses for empowering the people, by schemes like Gyandoot used to bring internet to the doorsteps of the tribals in Dhar district which won the stockholm Challenge Award and Soyachaupal launched for promoting soyabean cultivation by the ITC; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government for promoting such internet schemes for rural and tribals masses throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain States like Madhya Pradesh have undertaken pilot projects to extend the benefit of Information Technology for empowerment of masses.

(b) The Department of Information Technology has undertaken a scheme for setting up 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at 487 Block Headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim for promoting application of Information Technology for accelerating socio-economic development of the region. The scheme is being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim 483 CICs have been set up till date.

Pilot implementation of Rural IT Centres (Samadhan Kendras) has been completed in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu and 3 more Samadhan Kendra Projects are ongoing in Ujjain (MP), West Godavri District (AP) and Chitrakoot (MP). These Centres are equipped with computers and provide connectivity to internet and e-mail facilities to the villagers. Besides this, a whole range of other information facilities required in rural areas are fulfilled through the Samadhan Kendras.

Besides the above, National Informatics Centre is implementing AGMARKNET project of the Ministry of Agriculture under which 750 Agriculture Wholesale Markets have been Networked for the benefit of farmers.